

**To:** Allen, HarryL[Allen.HarryL@epa.gov]; Robberson, Bill[Robberson.Bill@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]  
**From:** Zito, Kelly  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 10:20:33 PM  
**Subject:** INFO REQUEST: Chronology

Could your team help pull in a few key R9 facts, such as when daily calls with Navajo began, when R9 deployed staff/ contractor resources, added sampling sites, facilitated visit by President Begaye, etc?

Thanks-

Kelly

-

**August 5 (last Wednesday)**

10:30 a.m. Blowout occurred. Safety secured and pH and metals sampling begins.

On site OSC make calls to downstream (Silverton and Durango) local contacts

In the afternoon, OSC on site notified R8 duty officer at Denver Operation Center. Initial reports were that it was discharging into a virtually dead creek, and anticipated impacts were focused on Cement Creek and town of Silverton.

R8 ARA notified mayor of Silverton; and San Juan County officials. EOC notified CO Dept. of Health and Environment.

CDPHE issued notice to Drinking Water Systems downstream.

Began issuing daily statements on the event.

## **August 6**

Began constructing treatment system at mine.

In the morning, R8 management began to deploy resources beginning to recognize the significance of the release.

RA contacted Governor's Office, DNR Director, CDPHE Director of Environment, mayor of Durango, LaPlata County Commissioner, and EPA HQ (DRA and CoS).

Sr. Policy Advisor notified R6 DRA.

Region 8 took two surface water samples in New Mexico. Mobilized contractors into New Mexico. Contacted NMED. Activated the Region 6 REOC.

R8 deployed Incident Commander and a Public Information Officer.

START was deployed.

Began coordination with ATSDR

R8 Golden lab and ESAT.

## **August 7**

-

Mine discharge treatment and monitoring begins

In the morning, EPA's ASPECT aircraft begins flyovers.

Issued a health statement on pH

Unified Command established

Sen. Bennet and Sen. Gardner visited Durango Incident Command Center.

R8 RA and Director of Emergency Response flew to Durango early morning to meet with elected officials, Sheriff Smith, and staff from County, City and S. Ute Tribe. In the afternoon, the RA hosted a public meeting, attended by an estimated 250 people, to describe the blowout, EPA's response, and field questions. RA also held a media availability.

R8 mobilized OSC into Farmington and additional contractors. Region 6 began surface water sampling.

Contracted with a commercial lab in Durango.

Alternative sources of drinking and stock water begin to be provided to affected well owners and well sampling begins

## **August 8**

-

Began daily calls to Congressional offices, state and tribal officials, and local elected officials; began daily media calls.

Began sole-source contracting with La Plata County.

Released summary select metals data report spike and evidence of sharp trend to prevent conditions in Cement Creek and upper Animas locations.

Released detailed data table of Aug 5 and 6 results

R6 expanded surface water sampling to locations at all DW systems. Drinking water personnel mobilized to Farmington to coordinate with DW systems. An additional OSC was mobilized and plugged into the San Juan EOC. Participated in first community meeting. Sent individual to JIC in Durango.

### **August 9**

RA flew back to Durango with ARA

Announced Claims process

Updated discharge estimate to 3 mg

R6 continued surface water sampling. MCP arrive on site. Activate response contractor with \$500,000 in emergency funding.

## **August 10**

Large Region 8 response team deployed to Durango

R6 participated in County Fair at NMED booth for drinking water. Initiated private well sampling with NMED. Worked with San Juan Co. On water delivery for livestock and irrigation.

## **August 11**

Established Area Commander, Region 8's David Ostrander, and his PIO, Melissa Harrison

Unified Command in place and building

R6 surface water sampling and sediment sampling. Six teams sampling domestic water wells.

Established a toll-free phone number for citizens. Provided water for livestock and irrigation. Established liaison in NMED offices in Santa Fe. Sent OSC to Unified Area Command in Durango to coordinate NM activities.